

Remarks

The Official Action dated March 30, 2007, has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the following changes and remarks are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, claim 1 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed (for example, see Figs. 3-4). It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 5-8 remain pending in this application. As set forth below, it is believed that claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are in condition for allowance.

In the Official Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Since claim 6 has been cancelled, Applicants believe this rejection is now moot and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson (U.S. Patent No. 2,758,458) in view of Davidson et al (WO 90/11691). The Examiner asserts that Carlson teaches a cake cover having an integrally formed post disposed on a center position of an external surface of the lid and a knob having an internal diameter greater than the diameter of the post. Moreover, the Examiner contends that Carlson discloses that the lid can be formed of any suitable material that is transparent to allow one to see the food article cover by the lid. As the Examiner notes, however, Carlson does not disclose that the engagement between the post and the knob is via screw threads on each of the post and knob. However, the Examiner contends that Davidson et al teach that it is known to provide a threaded post and a threaded knob to a lid. Thus, the Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of screw threads to each of the knob and the post of Carlson as taught by Davidson et al, and suggests that providing screw threads allows for reliable, yet deliberate separation and engagement between the post and the knob.

As will be set forth in detail below, it is submitted that the molded glass lids defined by claims 1, 3 and 5-7 are nonobvious and patentably distinguishable over Carlson in view Davidson et al. Accordingly, this rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Carlson discloses a food protective receptacle adapted to hold a birthday cake (col. 1, lines 15-17).

Davidson et al generally disclose an apparatus and process for marinating foodstuffs (abstract). Davidson et al also teach that the cover includes an upstanding neck portion which has an air inlet aperture which is used to provide for pressure release within the cover during use (page 8, lines 2-6).

References relied upon to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 must provide an enabling disclosure, i.e., they must place the claimed invention in the possession of the public. *In re Payne*, 203 U.S.P.Q. 245 (CCPA 1979). With regard to independent claim 1, Applicants find no teaching or suggestion by Carlson of a glass lid including a threaded post which is configured to receive an engagement piece and is free from any openings, wherein the engagement piece is removably connected to the threaded post. Rather, Carlson is directed to cake dome which appears to include a knob which has an opening recess which receives an upstanding projection from the top of the cake dome (col. 1, lines 61-66). As the Examiner noted, Carlson fails to teach a threaded post and appears to only show a friction fit arrangement which does not provide for a removable connection, but rather a fixed arrangement. Moreover, Carlson teaches that the

preferred embodiment is such that the cover is made from transparent "plastic," not glass (col. 1, lines 67-70). As such, Carlson fails to teach a glass lid including a threaded post which is configured to receive an engagement piece and is free from any openings, wherein the engagement piece is removably connected to the threaded post.

Moreover, the teachings of Davidson et al do not overcome these deficiencies. For example, Davidson et al do not teach a molded glass lid having an externally threaded post configured to receive an engagement piece and which is free from any openings. Rather, Davidson et al teach a lid having a hollow opening through the upper portion of the lid (see Fig. 6). As such, Davidson et al also do not teach the presently claimed molded glass lid.

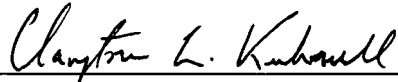
It would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Carlson with Davidson et al because there is no teaching or suggestion to combine such references. Carlson uses a friction fit to maintain the knob in place and thus does not provide for a removable connection between the knob and the post. This design is in contradiction to the design provided for in Davidson et al. Davidson et al provide for a removable knob for the release of vapors during cooking through a hollow opening, while Carlson uses a cover with no openings having a knob which is not removably connected (friction fit design) to maintain a closed environment to keep food fresh to prevent it from drying out (col. 1, lines 18-20). As such, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Carlson with Davidson et al because there simply is no motivation or suggestion to modify the arrangement of Carlson with the disclosure of Davidson et al to teach the presently claimed molded glass lids.

Therefore, Applicants contend that the combination of Carlson and Davidson et al do not support a rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicants therefore submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of the presently claimed molded glass lids of claims 1, 3 and 5-7 over Carlson in view of Davidson et al has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully

requested.

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks represent a complete response to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§103 and 112, second paragraph, and as such, place the present application having claims 1, 3 and 5-8 in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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